

# **Foodborne Disease Outbreak Investigation Epidemiologic Case Studies**

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*Note from the Author*

<b>Case study #1:</b>	Botulism in Argentina Instructor's version Student's version
<b>Case study #2:</b>	A Multistate Outbreak of <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 Infection Instructor's version Student's version
<b>Case study #3:</b>	Gastroenteritis at a University in Texas Instructor's version Student's version

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In this packet you will find three epidemiologic case studies for the classroom setting that focus on foodborne disease outbreak investigation. They were developed for public health practitioners with knowledge of basic epidemiologic concepts and experience in data collection and analysis who are interested in learning specific skills for investigating foodborne and other infectious disease outbreaks.

The case studies are based on real-life outbreak investigations undertaken by public health practitioners at the local, state, and national level. Some aspects of the original investigations have been altered, however, to meet the desired teaching objectives. The investigations were carefully selected to illustrate and reinforce a variety of issues ... not all strictly epidemiologic in nature. Logistical and practical concerns such as appropriate use of resources and decisions on interventions and actions are also included. The resulting case studies, hopefully, complement each other and prepare the student for work in the real world of public health.

The case studies were developed for use with a knowledgeable instructor and 5-15 students from the target audience. They consist largely of a series of questions and answers about an evolving outbreak scenario that are designed for open discussion; students should be encouraged to share their ideas and respond to those of their classmates. The instructor's versions of the case studies provide teaching points and basic information about the questions. Instructors should feel free to elaborate on these notes based on their own experiences, knowledge, and expertise. We believe both this teacher-to-student interaction and the student-to-student interaction will facilitate the learning from these materials.

Because these case studies are part of the public domain, students and instructors can make copies and share them with colleagues and classmates. Word processing versions of the materials are also available for instructors interested in adapting the materials to their own teaching needs.

We hope you enjoy these case studies and find them useful in teaching epidemiologic and public health principles and practices. We invite you to send us your comments about the case study by visiting our website at <http://www.cdc.gov/phtn/casestudies>. Please include the name of the case study with your comments.

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